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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY - SECRET (U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY) - PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

OADR

TO : Department of State

•Enclosure: none

FROM : ATHENS, 1478, March 21, 1951

767.00/3-2151

REF: Trieste 191, January 11, 1951 and Depcirairgram February 1, 1951, 8:20 a.m.

SUBJECT: PERIPHERAL: COMMENTS ON TRIESTE DESPATCH 191, January 11, 1951

The following comments on despatch No. 191 from Trieste represent a consensus of informed opinion in Athens, and are believed to be generally correct.

In order to facilitate the correlation of comment in Athens with the specific report in question, the sentences in the subject report have been numbered. Comments below refer by number to sentences in the original report. [

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44. The most significant struggle among Albanian exile groups at present is that between those who are in the Committee for Free Albania and those who are outside of it. Those outside of the Committee are anxious to join and to administer it. (Perhaps largely because they are interested in the financial resources available to the Committee.) The two strongest opponents of the Committee are Ali KLISURA and Xhaver DEVA. These individuals pretend to be independent of one another; actually it would appear they are allies. The action of Ali Klisura in forming a group which he calls the Balli Kombetar, which he claims is "the true Balli Kombetar," and for which he claims U. S. support (perhaps he has Italian and/or Greek support!), is the most serious threat to the influence among Albanian refugees and emigres of the Committee for Free Albania. It is true that the struggle between the Balli Kombetar and the Legaliteti has had only slight repercussions in the Committee for Free Albania.

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45. Probably true.

46. Not unlikely.

47. True.

48. The results of the conference are still highly secret. It would appear that discussion centered about dissident, splinter groups, such as that of Ali Klisura.

49. - 50. No information.

51. Said Bey KRYEZIU is still a member of the Committee for Free Albania.

52. ---

53. - 54. Concur.

55. The Balli Kombetar has officially taken on the name of the Albanian Agrarian Party and is now a member of the International Peasant's Union. It has not, however, been re-organized on a "leftist" basis.

56. - 57. Concur.

Robert B. Memminger
Robert B. Memminger,
First Secretary of Embassy.

Copy to

Trieste

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